

FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND/6



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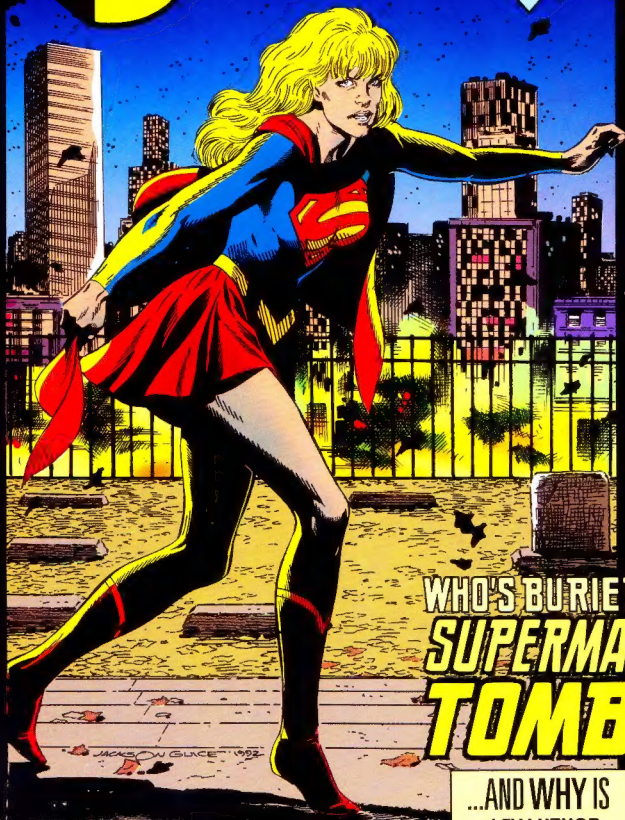


SUPERGIRL

IN ACTION COMICS

1993

8



WHO'S BURIED IN
SUPERMAN'S
TOMB?

...AND WHY IS
LEX LUTHOR
SO PARANOID?

BY STERN, GUICE & RODIER

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WHO'S
BURIED
IN

SUPERMAN'S TOMB?

METROPOLIS.

THE SQUEAL OF TIRES AND THE
GROWL OF A V-8 ENGINE ARE
SUDDENLY DROWNED OUT BY THE
AMPLIFIED TONES OF A
COMMANDING VOICE...

YOU IN THE
VAN! PULL
OVER!!

WHUZZAT?
SOME COP?!

WHO CARES?
WASTE 'EM!!

ROGER STERN ~ WRITER • JACKSON G. DENIS ~ ARTISTS
BILL OAKLEY • GLENN WHITMORE • JENNIFER FRANK • MIKE CARLIN
LETTERER COLORIST ASSISTANT EDITOR EDITOR

SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
THE GUARDIAN created by JOE SIMON & JACK KIRBY

THAT'S NO COP! THAT'S... THAT'S **THE GUARDIAN!**

DROP YOUR WEAPONS!

I SAID DROP 'EM!!

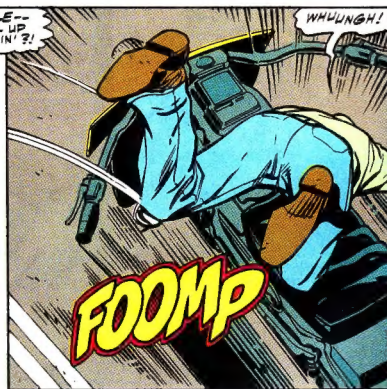
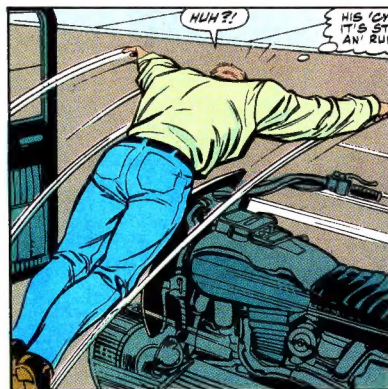
THE GUARDIAN? NAH, CAN'T BE--! MY GRAN'PA HAD A RUN-IN WITH HIM ONCE--AN' GRAMPS WAS YOUNGER IN ME BACK THEN! THE GUARDIAN'D BE OLDER'N DIRT BY NOW!

SHOOT! SHOOT!!

HE AIN'T BULLETPROOF, IS HE?

TING
TING
TING
PYANG

TELL ME HE AIN'T BULLET-PROOF!!





Head Lube And Oil Change, \$39.99.*

Drain your brainpan and fill 'er up with *Mystic Quest*,™ the world's first role-playing game especially designed for the entry-level player.

It's got easy-to-read icons. Constantly changing 16-bit characters.

And lots of heady combat



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to keep your synapses greased and firing.

Pick up the game before January 31, and we'll throw in a free strategy book.

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Mystic Quest.

It's a game anybody can dip into.



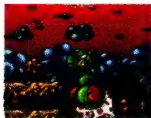
CHUCK ROCKS YOUR SUPER NES!

He's fat, he stinks and he's one of the best-loved characters ever to climb his way out of the primordial slime and onto your video screen. In this rockin' new 16-bit adventure for your Super NES, you'll join Chuck Rock on his belly-bashing, odor-kicking, rock-tossing mission to rescue his wife Ophelia from arch-rival Gary Gritter. You and Chuck, who's equipped with a pea-sized brain and nuclear body odor, have to crush some



A chilly Chuck meets up with the woolly mammoth

pretty strange characters, like the wild and woolly mammoth, one mean triceratops and a saber-toothed tiger who's permanently hot under the collar. Together, you and the Chuckster swim through swamps, travel up volcanoes and shiver your way through the ice age — all in the name of love! Nineteen levels set in five prehistoric worlds. Eye-popping graphics and very cool animation. If you wanna rock, you gotta get Chuck Rock.



Bring on all challengers



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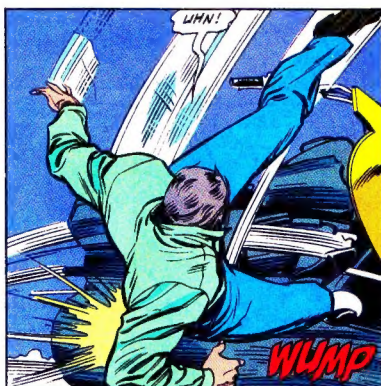
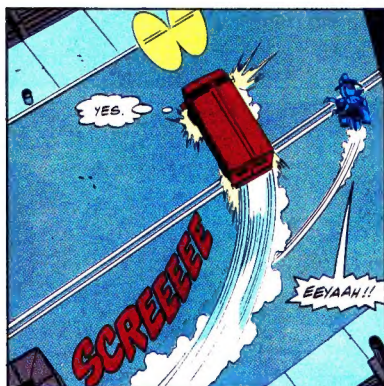
SUPER NINTENDO

SONY



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"--SAVE IT FOR THE POLICE!"



CHARLIE'S
RIGHT... THE
GUY WAS
A MANIAC!

YEAH,
YEAH!

...THAT'S THE STORY,
OFFICER. I DON'T KNOW
WHY THEY WENT TO THE
TROUBLE OF STEALING A
DELIVERY VAN... MAYBE
YOU CAN GET THEM TO
TELL YOU.

EVEN IF WE CAN'T, WE
HAVE PLENTY TO HOLD 'EM
ON. IN ADDITION TO
GRAND THEFT AUTO AND
THE WEAPONS CHARGES,
THERE'RE WARRANTS
OUT ON THE WHOLE
LOT!

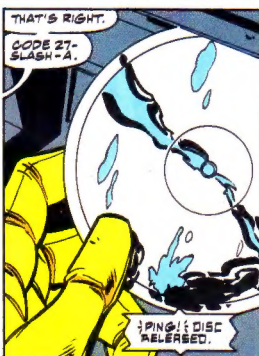
STILL AND ALL, WE MAY
HAVE A PROBLEM -- AT
LEAST YOU MAY.
GUARDIAN. THESE CREEPS
ARE MAKING A LOT OF WILD
ACCUSATIONS. IF THEY
CAN MAKE THEIR
STORIES JIBE ...



...THEY COULD FILE
ASSAULT CHARGES
AGAINST YOU.

LET THEM
TRY. MY BIKE
RECORDED
EVERYTHING.

YOUR
BIKE--?



THAT'S RIGHT.
CODE 27-
SLASH-A.

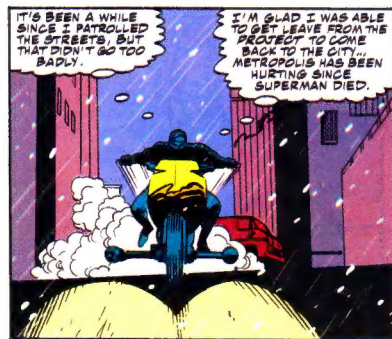
¡PING! ¡DISC
RELEASED.



THERE ARE SEVERAL
VIDEO CAMERAS CON-
CEALED ON MY BIKE.
THE ENTIRE CHASE
AND CAPTURE IS
RECORDED ON THIS
LASER DISC.

ALL RIGHT!
THE D.A.'S
OFFICE IS
GONNA LOVE
YOU FOR
THIS!

MY PLEASURE. TELL
THEM I'LL BE IN TOUCH!



IT'S BEEN A WHILE
SINCE I PATROLLED
THE STREETS, BUT
THAT DIDN'T GO TOO
BADLY.

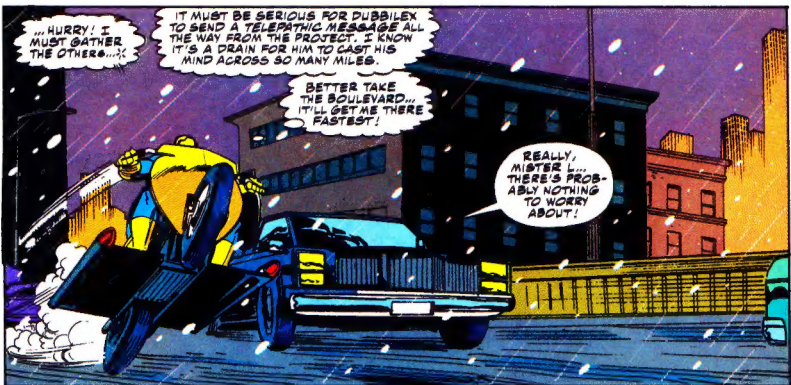
I'M GLAD I WAS ABLE
TO GET LEAVE FROM THE
PROTECT TO COME
BACK TO THE CITY...
METROPOLIS HAS BEEN
HURTING SINCE
SUPERMAN DIED.



GUARDIAN!

DUBBLEX?
WHAT'S UP?

TROUBLE. WE
NEED YOU AT THE
PROJECT...



...HURRY! I MUST GATHER THE OTHERS...!!

IT MUST BE SERIOUS FOR DUBBLEX TO SEND A TELEPATHIC MESSAGE ALL THE WAY FROM THE PROJECT. I KNOW IT'S A DRAIN FOR HIM TO CAST HIS MIND ACROSS SO MANY MILES.

BETTER TAKE THE BOULEVARD... IT'LL GET ME THERE FASTEST!

REALLY, MISTER L... THERE'S PROBABLY NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!



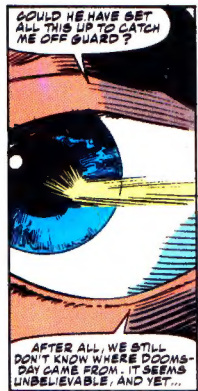
NOTHING, HAPPERSEN? SUPERMAN'S BODY IS MISSING FROM ITS TOMB!

GRAVE ROBBERS-- SOME NUT CASES HAVE STOLEN THE BODY-- THAT'S THE ANSWER-- PURE AND SIMPLE! THE MAN HAD A LOT OF ENEMIES, AFTER ALL... YOU WEREN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO WANTED HIM DEAD, SIR!

YOU SAW THE NEWS FOOTAGE OF HIS BATTLE WITH THAT DOOMSDAY CREATURE... SUPERMAN COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE FAKED HIS DEATH!

NO, HAPPERSEN? I FAKED MINE!

COULD HE HAVE FOUND THAT OUT?



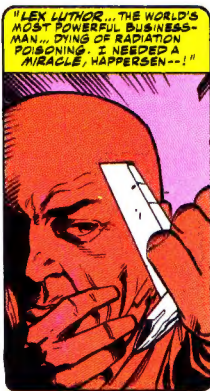
COULD HE HAVE SET ALL THIS UP TO CATCH ME OFF GUARD?

AFTER ALL, WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHERE DOOMSDAY CAME FROM. IT SEEMS UNBELIEVABLE, AND YET...



"... KELLEY'S DIAGNOSIS SEEMED UNBELIEVABLE!"

I'M SORRY, LEX... YOU HAVE NO MORE THAN A YEAR TO LIVE.

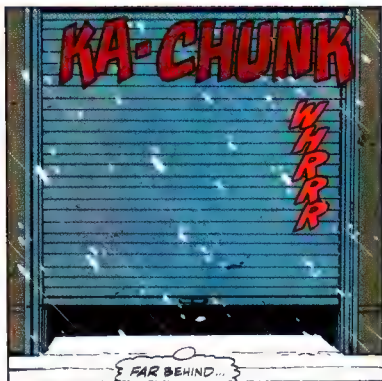
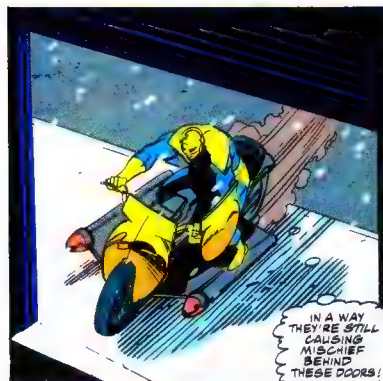
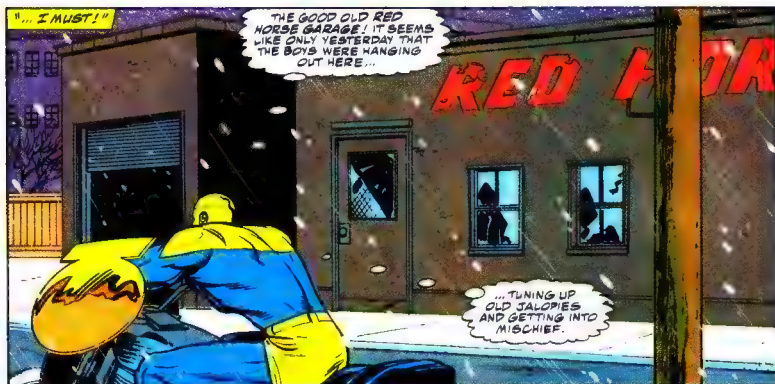


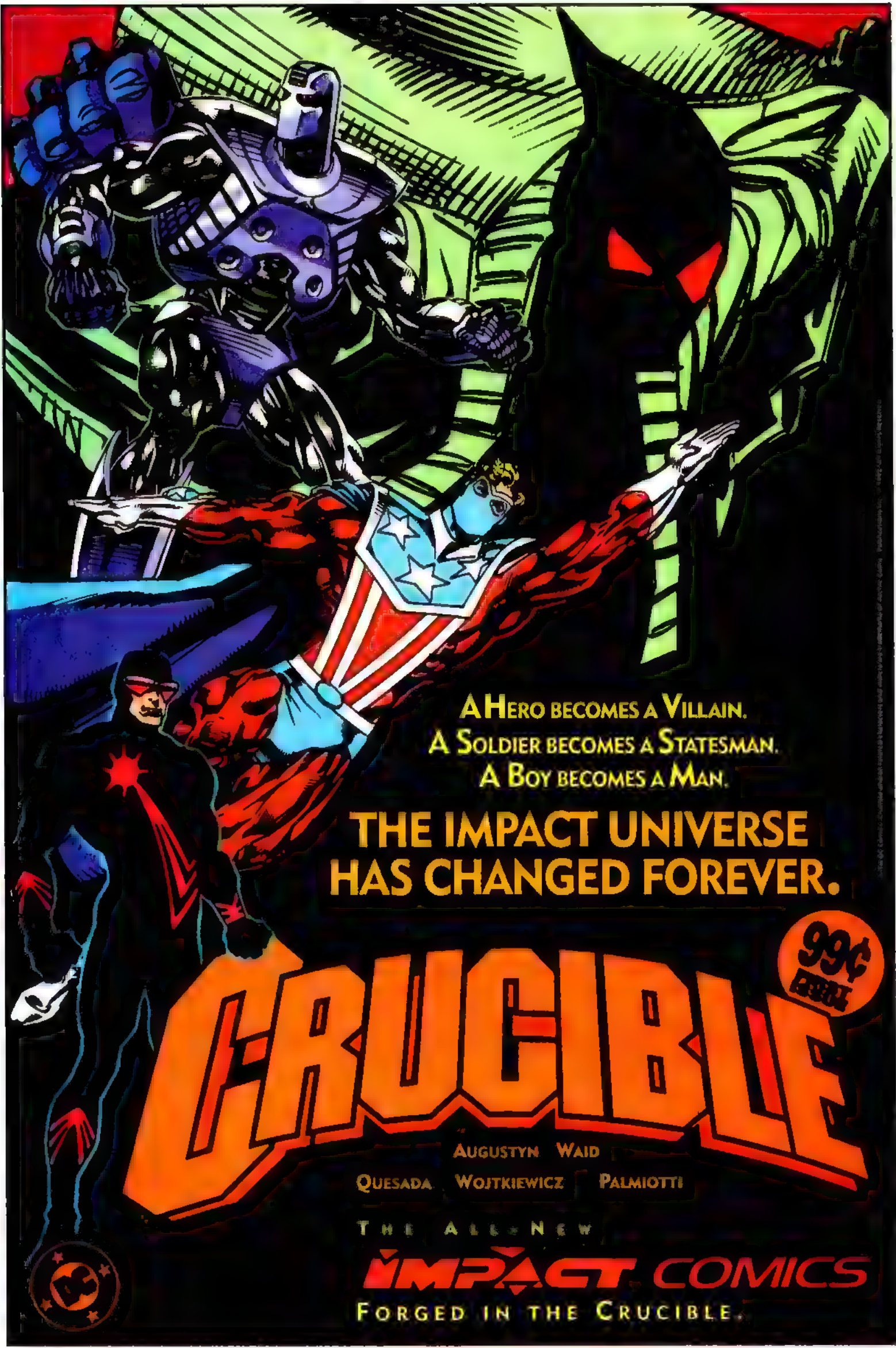
"LEX LUTHOR... THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL BUSINESS-MAN... DYING OF RADIATION POISONING. I NEEDED A MIRACLE, HAPPERSEN--!"



"AND YOU MADE ONE, SIR! WE LET EVERYONE THINK THAT YOU DIED IN THAT PLANE CRASH!"

"WE LET THE CORPORATION FOUNDER... INSURING THAT THE WORLD WOULD MOURN THE PASSING OF THE OLD LEX LUTHOR..."





A HERO BECOMES A VILLAIN.
A SOLDIER BECOMES A STATESMAN.
A BOY BECOMES A MAN.

THE IMPACT UNIVERSE
HAS CHANGED FOREVER.

CRUCIBLE

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EST.

AUGUSTYN WAID

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THE ALL-NEW

IMPACT COMICS

FORGED IN THE CRUCIBLE.



WORLD WITHOUT A SUPERMAN!

THE LEGEND CONTINUES

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AMERICA #70

ADVENTURES OF
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THE MAN OF STEEL™ #20

SUPERMAN™ #76

ADVENTURES OF
SUPERMAN #499

ACTION COMICS #686

SUPERMAN:
THE MAN OF STEEL™ 21

SUPERMAN #77

FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND

...AND
BELOW!

THE KIDS GROWING
UP NOWADAYS IN
SUICIDE SLUM WOULD BE
AMAZED AT ALL THE
AUTOMATED SYSTEMS
BURIED BENEATH THE
STREETS OF THEIR
NEIGHBORHOOD.

I MUST REMEMBER
TO COMMEND THE
MAINTENANCE DIVISION...
I KNOW THIS HYDRAULIC
LIFT HASN'T BEEN USED IN
MONTHS, BUT IT STILL RUNS
AS SMOOTHLY AS THE DAY
IT WAS INSTALLED.

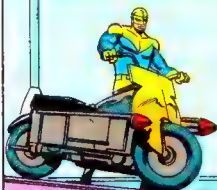


¡DING! ¡WARNING... YOU ARE
IN A HIGH-SECURITY ZONE.
STATE YOUR CLEARANCE CODE.

PRIORITY
CODE SEVEN-A...
THIS IS AGENT
HARPER. REPEAT,
THIS IS AGENT
HARPER.

VOICE-PRINT
CHECK CON-
FIRMED... AGENT
HARPER...
CLEARED FOR
ARILCAR
ACCESS... ¡DING! ¡

I COULD FEEL THE ANXIETY
IN DUBBIE'S THOUGHT-CAST.
IT USUALLY TAKES A PRETTY
HEAVY CRISIS TO GET HIM
DISTURBED.



...I WONDER WHAT COULD
BE GOING ON? NOT MORE
TROUBLE WITH PAUL
WESTFIELD, I HOPE!

THE POLICE CZARS IN WASHINGTON
TORE A STRIP OFF HIM FOR THAT STUNT
HE PULLED LAST WEEK... AND NO
ONE DESERVED IT MORE!

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE
THAT HE NEARLY GOT THE
PROJECT INTO A
SHOOTING MATCH WITH
LOCAL POLICE OVER
CUSTODY OF SUPERMAN'S
BODY! *

AND TO THINK
THAT THE
GOVERNMENT
NAMED WESTFIELD
AS PROJECT
ADMINISTRATOR
TO ENSURE
HIGHER ETHICAL
STANDARDS.

¡DING! ¡ARILCAR ENGAGED...
ARRIVAL AT PROJECT IN FIVE
MINUTES, THREE SECONDS.

*LAST ISSUE.

"THIS IS FAR
ENOUGH..."



...IT MAY BE THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, BUT I DON'T WANT TO TAKE ANY CHANCES OF THIS CAR BEING SPOTTED TOO CLOSE TO THE TOMB.

LEX, THERE YOU ARE! I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU!

MY HEADSET WAS BROKEN... NOW MUCH OF MY REPORT GOT BACK TO YOU?

WE LOST YOUR SIGNAL ONCE YOU LEFT THE TOMB, LOVE. WHAT DID YOU FIND?

A SERIES OF CAVES AND, BELIEVE IT OR NOT, A SMALL UNDERGROUND COLONY OF... CREATURES.

INSPECTOR TURPIN AND I HAD QUITE A RUN-IN WITH THEM--!

TURPIN? THEN, THE POLICE KNOW OF SUPERMAN'S... DISAPPEARANCE?

YES.

*IN ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #499, STILL ON SALE!



"...THEY'RE ON THE SCENE NOW." CAPTAIN SAWYER ... INSPECTOR TURPIN. BEASTLY NIGHT FOR SUCH A THING.

IS THERE EVER A GOOD TIME TO INVESTIGATE A GRAVE ROBBERY?

HULLO AGAIN, L'L LADY.

INSPECTOR! YOU'RE LOOKING MORE... TOGETHER.

YEAH, YA DON'T HAVETA FIND ME ANY NEW TROU' NOW-- THE CAP'N SCARED UP THESE DUDS FOR ME!

*TURPIN'S WARDROBE TOOK A BEATING IN ADV. #499.



MISTER LUTHOR, IN ALL MY MANY YEARS IN POLICE WORK, I'D NEVER BEFORE SEEN A TOMB WITH ACCESS VENTS AND SECRET TUNNELS. I'D LIKE TO HEAR YOUR EXPLANATION FOR THIS SETUP!

GIVE 'IM HELL, MAGGIE! I GOT ME A FEELING THIS 'SLIPPERY CUBS' HAS BEEN PLAYIN' FAST AN' LOOSE 'WAY TOO LONG.

I ASSURE YOU, CAPTAIN SAWYER, I NEVER MEANT FOR ANYTHING TO DISTURB THE INTEGRITY OF SUPERMAN'S FINAL RESTING PLACE.

BUT LET'S DISCUSS THIS INSIDE THE TUNNEL. OUT OF THE WEATHER!



YOU SEE, THIS SECTION OF CENTENIAL PARK WAS RECENTLY REFURBISHED UNDER A LEXCORP GRANT. ORIGINALLY, A TIME CAPSULE WAS TO BE BURIED HERE. HENCE, THIS SETUP," AS YOU CALLED T

AFTER SUPERMAN'S UNTIMELY DEATH, THE FOUNDATIONS PROVED IDEAL STRUCTURAL SUPPORT FOR HIS TOMB.

TRUE, THESE TUNNELS WEREN'T PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE, BUT THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO INTENTION OF SUBTERFUGE!

...EX, THERE'S SOMEONE IN THE TOMB!

WHAT WOULD BE INSPECTOR HENDERSON...

Y... HE'S CHECKING THE BREACH IN THE TOMB WALL...

YOU WERE RIGHT, SUPERGIRL... FROM THE SCORING AND THE RUBBLE, IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THE TOMB WAS BROKEN INTO, NOT OUT OF.

GIVEN THE AMOUNT OF ROCK THEY HAD TO GO THROUGH, WHOEVER DID THIS HAD ACCESS TO SOME PRETTY HIGH-TECH GEAR.

THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE THE WEEDS THAT SUPERGIRL AND ME RAN UP AGAINST!

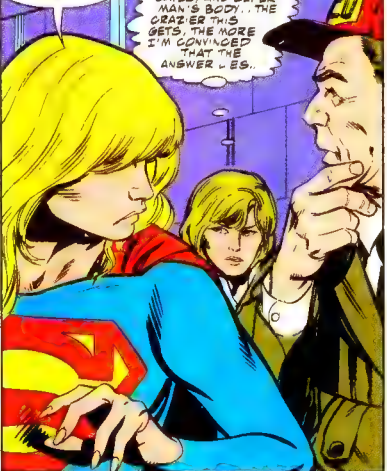
NO, IT DOESN'T. NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...



...THOSE UNDERWORLDERS DID SEEM CONFUSED WHEN I ACCOSTED THEM. BUT IF THEY DIDN'T STEAL SUPERMAN'S BODY, WHO DID? AND WHY?

THERE WERE TWO BRANCHES TO THE CAVES DOWN BELOW. I'VE BEEN THINKIN' THAT OUR ANSWER MAY LIE DOWN THE OTHER ONE.

HIGH-TECH GEAR UNDERGROUND CAVES, AND SUPERMAN'S BODY... THE CRAZIER THIS GETS, THE MORE I'M CONVINCED THAT THE ANSWER LIES...



... AT THE CADMUS PROTECT!

DUBBLEX! GABBY... SCRAPPER... WALT... WHAT IN BLAZES IS GOING ON?



IT'S WESTFIELD... HE'S LOCKED UP IN LAB SEVEN WITH AN ADVANCED STUDY TEAM IN VIOLATION OF ALL KNOWN PROTOCOLS.

HE'S UP TO SOMETHING, JIM! HE SET UP PSYCHIC BUFFERS AROUND THE LAB, SO DUBBLEX COULDN'T PROBE IT!

TOMMY AND WORDS ARE TRYING TO OVER-RIDE THE SECURE LOCKS NOW!



DID IT... THE DOOR'S CYCLING OPEN!

NO, IT IS EVERY BIT AS BAD AS I FEARED!





SPARE ME THE HISTORICS, GUARDIAN! THIS IS A SENSITIVE SCIENTIFIC OPERATION OF THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE PRIORITY..

...AND I HAVE NO DESIRE TO STAND HERE AND LISTEN TO A LOT OF INSUBORDINATE MORALIZING!

YOU DON'T WANT TO LISTEN--? FINE--



GYAWWK?

--I'LL MAKE MY POINT ANOTHER WAY!



GUARDIAN... JIM, TAKE IT EASY! THIS ISN'T THE WAY--.

NOT THE BEST WAY, MAYBE... BUT OUR ESTEEMED ADMINISTRATOR HERE JUST MADE THE ONLY WAY!



YOU CALLED ME INSUBORDINATE? THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF ORDERED YOU TO CEASE ALL ATTEMPTS TO CLAIM SUPER-MAN'S BODY--!

N-N-NO... NOT EXACTLY.

MY ORDERS SAID... TO ALLOW METROPOLIS TO HOLD THEIR FUNERAL. I-- I INTERPRETED THAT. TO MEAN... ONCE THE SERVICES WERE OVER...

...MY ORIGINAL AUTHORIZATION... TO COLLECT AND STUDY... ALIEN DECEDENTS... W-WOULD RESUME.



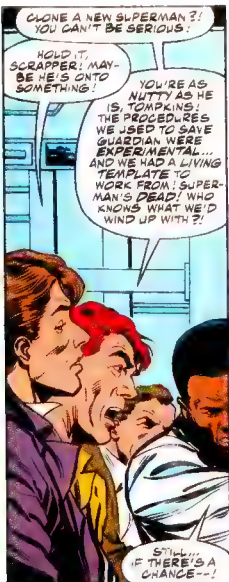
SO YOU JUST TOOK IT UPON YOURSELF TO DO A LITTLE GRAVE ROBBING? YOU ARE REALLY SOME PIECE OF WORK, WESTFIELD!

JUST WHAT DID YOU HAVE IN MIND FOR SUPERMAN? WERE YOU AFRAID YOU'D MISS YOUR CHANCE TO PRESIDE OVER THE DISSECTION OF THE LAST KRYPTONIAN?



NO... YOU FOOL! I THINK... WE COULD RECREATE SUPERMAN.

BRING HIM BACK TO LIFE... AS YOU WERE BROUGHT BACK!



CLONE A NEW SUPERMAN?!
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!

HOLD IT,
SCRAPPER! MAY-
BE HE'S ONTO
SOMETHING!

YOU'RE AS
NUTTY AS HE
IS, TOMPKINS!
THE PROCEDURES
WE USED TO SAVE
GUARDIAN WERE
EXPERIMENTAL...
AND WE HAD A LIVING
TEMPLATE TO
WORK FROM! SUPER-
MAN'S DEAD! WHO
KNOWS WHAT WE'D
WIND UP WITH?!

STILL...
IF THERE'S A
CHANCE--!

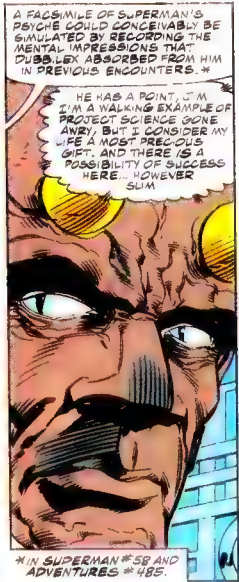


I CAN'T
BELIEVE I'M
HEARING THIS!
WORDS--
ETHICS ASIDE--
YOU'VE TOLD
ME NOW
TOUCH-AND-GO
MY REBIRTH
WAS!

MY BODY MIGHT JUST AS
EASILY HAVE WOUND UP AS
TWISTED AND MISSHAPEN
AS... AS THOSE POOR
UNDERWORLDERS DABNEY
DONOVAN CREATED!

SCRAPPER'S RIGHT!
EVEN IF YOU SUCCEEDED
IN CLONING SUPERMAN,
HE WOULDN'T BE
SUPERMAN--YOU DON'T
HAVE HIS MIND TO
PLUG INTO A NEW
BODY!

VALID OBJECTIONS, TO BE SURE.
THE ODDS AGAINST SUCCESS WOULD
BE MONUMENTAL... BUT NOT
NECESSARILY INSURMOUNTABLE!



A FACSIMILE OF SUPERMAN'S
PSYCHE COULD CONCEIVABLY BE
SIMULATED BY RECORDING THE
MENTAL IMPRESSIONS THAT
DUBBLEX ABSORBED FROM HIM
IN PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS.*

HE HAS A POINT, JIM.
I'M A WALKING EXAMPLE OF
PROJECT SCIENCE GONE
AWRY, BUT I CONSIDER MY
WIFE A MOST PRECIOUS
GIFT, AND THERE IS A
POSSIBILITY OF SUCCESS
HERE... HOWEVER
SLIM

*IN SUPERMAN #58 AND
ADVENTURES #485.



ALL RIGHT, I STILL THINK YOU ALL
OUGHT TO HAVE YOUR HEADS
EXAMINED... BUT I GUESS WE OWE
IT TO SUPERMAN-- TO THE WORLD--
TO TRY.

I S'HAUGH!
YOU'LL SEE...
I HAVE... THE
GREATEST
CONFIDENCE--!

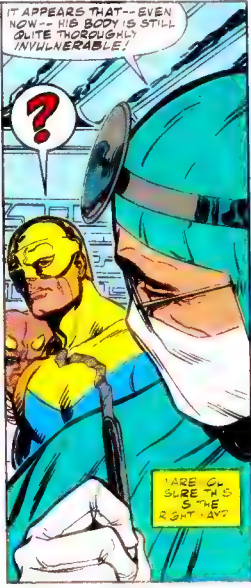
NOT SO FAST,
WESTFIELD! IF
THERE'S TO BE
AN "OPERATION"
SUPERMAN-- YOU
ARE NOT GOING TO
BE IN CHARGE OF IT!



I WANT THIS RUN STRICTLY BY THE
BOOK FROM HERE ON-- UNDER THE
DIRECT SUPERVISION OF TOMMY,
WALT, AND WORDS... AH, THAT IS,
DOCTORS TOMPKINS, JOHNSON,
AND RODRIGUES!

VERY WELL... IF THAT'S
THE WAY IT MUST BE.
WELL, YOU HEARD THE
MAN, DOCTOR PACKARD.
IT'S IN THEIR HANDS
NOW!

I WISH
YOU LUCK,
GENTLEMEN.
YOU'LL NEED
PLENTY OF IT
JUST TO OBTAIN
THE REQUIRED
TISSEU
SAMPLES FROM
SUPERMAN!



IT APPEARS THAT-- EVEN
NOW-- HIS BODY IS STILL
QUITE THOROUGHLY
INVULNERABLE!

?

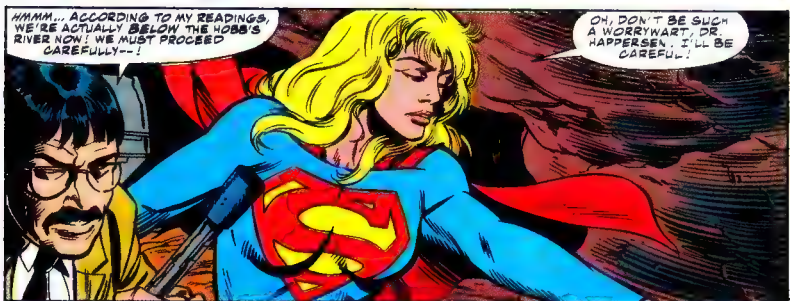
ARE YOU
SURE THAT'S
THE
RIGHT WAY?



WELL, IT'S THE ONLY BRANCH WE HADN'T EXPLORED, LEX. I HAVE TO ADMIT, I DIDN'T EXPECT THIS MUCH RUBBLE... BUT IT APPEARS TO BE NEWLY FALLEN.

I AGREE, MR. L. MY EQUIPMENT'S DETECTING MINUTE AIRBORNE TRACES OF EXPLOSIVE RESIDUE. SOMEONE WAS TRYING TO COVER THE TRAIL.

SUPERGIRL -- JUST A MOMENT, PLEASE.



HHMM... ACCORDING TO MY READINGS, WE'RE ACTUALLY BELOW THE HOBBS RIVER NOW! WE MUST PROCEED CAREFULLY--!

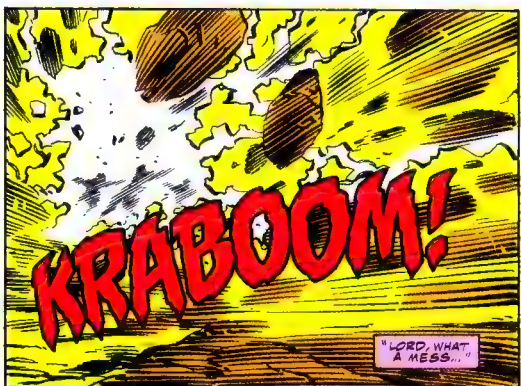
OH, DON'T BE SUCH A WORRYWART, DR. HAPPERSEN. I'LL BE CAREFUL!



JUST THE SAME, LOVE, A LITTLE CAUTION IS... EH?

HAPPERSEN, THERE'S SOME MANNER OF UNEXPLODED CHARGE HERE!

WHAT? MR. L, GET BACK!



"LORD, WHAT A MESS..."

**SOMEONE DRESSED LIKE A BAT IS MURDERING
THE CITIZENS OF GOTHAM CITY.**



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SHAMAN

Join the Batman on one of his earliest adventures.
Representing the first story arc from the acclaimed series

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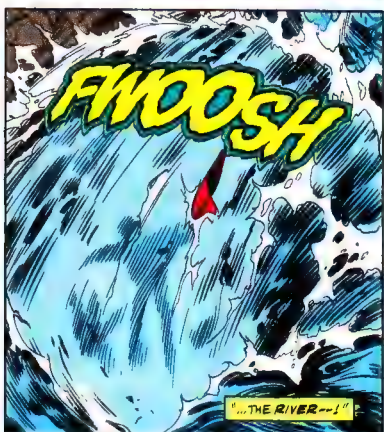
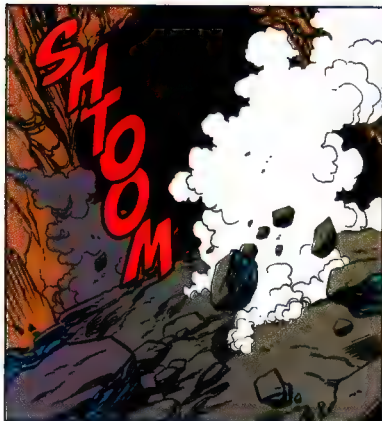
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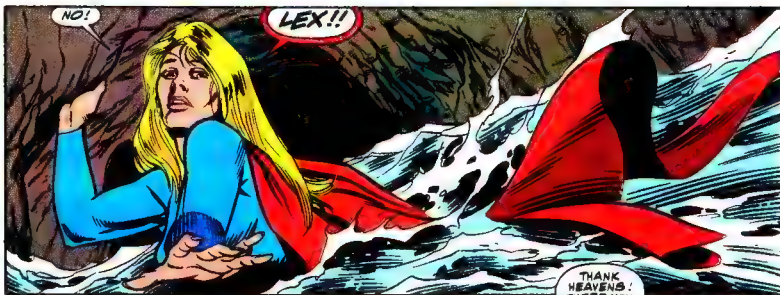
Buy it—he's watching you.





"...I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO GET UP AT THE CRACK OF DAWN, BUT CROSS-TOWN TRAFFIC REALLY BEGINS TO PILE UP EARLY--!"





NO!

LEX!!

THANK
HEAVENS!
THERE YOU
ARE!



!KAWFF!
TURPIN...
WHERE'S
DAN--?

AND CAPTAIN
SAWYER I JUST RELAX
... NOW THAT I HAVE MY
WITS TOGETHER, I CAN
HOLD BACK THE WATERS
UNTIL WE GET ABOVE
THE FLOOD LEVEL.

RIGHT HERE,
MAGGIE!



LET ME
GIVE YOU A HAND,
INSPECTOR.

IT'S DOC
HAPPESEN
HERE WHO NEEDS
THE ASSIST. I'M
OKAY... JUST A
LITTLE
SOGGY!

YOU DO GOOD WORK,
LADY, AND
THAT'S A FACT! IF
I EVER HEAR THAT
THIS "YOUNG PUP"
LUTHOR AIN'T
TREATIN' YOU RIGHT,
I'LL PERSONALLY
KICK HIS BEHIND
TILL HIS NOSE
BLEEDS!



SHORTLY, BACK IN THE TOMB...

GUESS WE'RE
BACK TO
"SQUARE ONE."

YES, IT'S ALL SO
FRUSTRATING!



BUCK UP, LOVE.
WE'LL UNTANGLE
THIS MYSTERY YET.
SUPERMAN'S
BODY WILL BE
RECOVERED... I
PROMISE YOU
THAT!

I WISH I HAD
YOUR CONFI-
DENCE, LEX. WE
STILL DON'T
KNOW WHO
ROBBED THE
TOMB...

...AND THAT
FLOOD PROBABLY
WASHED AWAY
ANY CLUES!



I'M AFRAID SHE'S RIGHT. I'M NOT LOOKING FORWARD TO BREAKING THIS NEWS TO THE PUBLIC.

WHAT? CAPTAIN, SURELY ANY DISCLOSURE MUST WAIT UNTIL WE KNOW MORE!

CAN YOU IMAGINE THE OUTCRY IF WE REVEALED THAT SUPERMAN'S BODY HAD DISAPPEARED?!



I GOTTA ADMIT, WE'S GOT A POINT, MAGGIE. IF THIS GOT OUT, IT COULD START A RIOT.

INDEED. SUPERMAN'S DEATH LEFT SO MANY PEOPLE BEREFT...



...IF WORD SHOULD LEAK THAT HIS TOMB WAS EMPTY ... WELL, OUR DIS- TRAUGHT CITIZENS MIGHT JUMP TO ALL MANNER OF CONCLUSIONS!

SOME OF THEM HAVE ALREADY, CAP'N, IF WE CAN BELIEVE THE REPORTS I'M GETTING--



--FROM THE GUYS OUT BY THE GRAVESITE!

EARLY-RISING BUNCH! WHERE'D THEY COME FROM?

WELL, FROM WHAT ONE OF 'EM SAID, THEIR CULT* STARTED OUT IN CALIFORNIA! THEY ACTUALLY WORSHIP SUPERMAN... AND I DON'T MEAN HERO-WORSHIP!

*LAST SEEN IN ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #638.



...AND I SAY TO YOU, SISTERS AND BROTHERS, DO NOT DESPAIR! BE NOT AFRAID! IN OUR HOUR OF GREATEST NEED, SUPERMAN SHALL RETURN TO US FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE!

YES! HE WILL RETURN AND SAVE US ALL! I SAY THE NAME! SAY THE NAME AND BE FREE!



SU-PER-MAN!
SU-PER-MAN!
SU-PER-MAN!

"OF ALL THE TIMES FOR THIS TO HAPPEN! IT LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE NO CHOICE NOW--"



--BUT TO KEEP A LID ON THIS.

WE'LL EXPECT YOUR FULL COOPERATION IN OUR INVESTIGATIONS, LUTHER.

BUT OF COURSE INSPECTOR HENDERSON. FOR NOW, THOUGH, I SUGGEST THAT WE SEAL THIS ACCESS...

you may think it's not your problem...

--THIS KID AT SCHOOL, ALFRED..WORD
GOT OUT THAT HE HAS THE HIV VIRUS--

THE ONE
THAT CAN LEAD
TO AIDS--

RIGHT, WELL,
EVERYBODY'S
AVOIDING HIM--
LIKE THEY'RE
AFRAID OF
HIM.

HOW UNFORTUNATE, ESPECIALLY
SINCE THERE IS NO DANGER
OF CONTRACTING THE DISEASE
THROUGH CASUAL CONTACT.

BUT KIDS DON'T KNOW THAT
NOBODY TELLS US..IT'S LIKE
ADULTS THINK WE CAN'T HANDLE
IT OR SOMETHING.
DON'T THEY KNOW THAT
MORE TEENAGERS ARE BEING
INFECTED WITH AIDS THAN
ANY OTHER GROUP?

WHERE ARE YOU GOING,
MASTER TIM?

TO GET SOME
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DC UNIVERSE

R.I.P. SUPERMAN

So what else is new? This page for starters! Since **Doomsday** struck the comic business at the end of 1992, things have really been shaken up here at **DC Comics**. First off, the boundaries of the known DC Universe have changed and been more clearly defined. DC's horror and mystery realm has spun off into the hot, new **VERTIGO** line leaving the DC Universe group to tighten its focus and specialize in the wickedest, alammn', Super-Hero throw-downs you've come to expect from your favorite comics.

The new DCU now runs the gamut from the mega-hit **SUPERMAN** titles to the rowdy line of **LOBO** comics—and everything in between! Seek vengeance with the **SPECTRE**, tear up shop with **BATMAN** and **CHAIN GANG**, and soar through space with the **LEGIONNAIRES**, unified by the ever evolving and expanding ring-ropes of the DC Universe!

This page is where the entire DCU comes together from now on. Which heroes are doing what... which artists are drawing what... why you can't live without stage-diving into the DC Universe head first! This is the hub... the nexus... the creeeeeeamy center of all that matters! This DC Universe page will be your signpost to tomorrow and beyond. Don't leave the Universe without it!

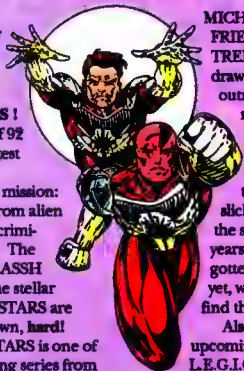
More on other changes as they happen, right here, on the DC Universe page.

NEW STARS ON THE HORIZON

From the blackest depths of space comes the rudest intergalactic police force: **THE DARKSTARS**!

September of '92 introduced the latest band of Earth's protectors. Their mission: to protect Earth from alien mercenaries and criminal organizations. The **Syndicate** and **K'LASSH** are just a few of the stellar terrors the **DARKSTARS** are sworn to bring down, hard!

The **DARKSTARS** is one of the newest, ongoing series from the DC Universe. Written by



MICHAEL JAN FRIEDMAN (STAR TREK, PRAXIS) and drawn by the outrageously popular rising stars **TRAVIS CHAREST** and **SCOTT HANNA**!

Reach for the stars with the slickest series to hit the stands in light years. If you haven't gotten the first issues yet, we dare you to find them!

Also look for the upcoming **DARKSTARS/LEGION '93/ GREEN LANTERN** crossover: **TRINITY**!

DC BULLETS



★ **Lee Moder** makes his DCU debut in **WONDER WOMAN #72**! If you know what's good for you (and your collection) you'll want to scope this jump-on issue out.

★ Give it up for **Scott Peterson** and **Bill Kaplan**, the DCU's newest Editor and Associate Editor! Scott will be handling **DETECTIVE**, **GREEN ARROW**, **BATMAN ADVENTURES** and other titles, while Bill will be the man on **OUTSIDERS**, **RAGMAN** and **SCARLETT**.

★ The man who started **HAWKWORLD**, artist **Tim Truman**, joins regular writer **John Ostrander** for the Hawks last stand. Who survives? Who doesn't? **Tim**

and **John** ain't tellin' but we hear it gets real nasty in **HAWKWORLD #32**, the final issue!

★ **Kevin Dooley** paid us \$10 and a ham sandwich to get his name on the first DC Universe page.



HOW TO DRAW: LOBO



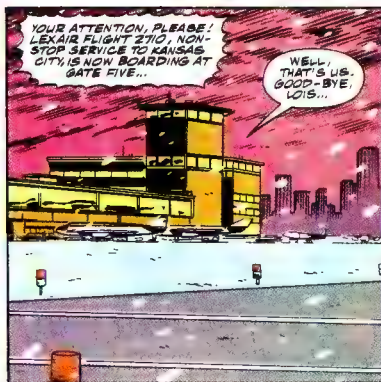
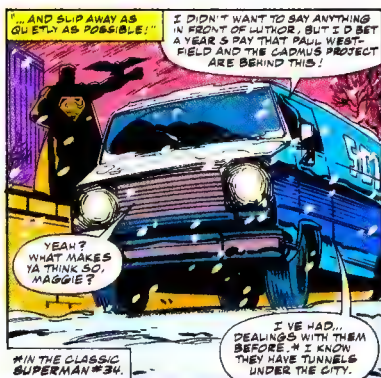
1. First, start off by drawing the basic oval for a head.

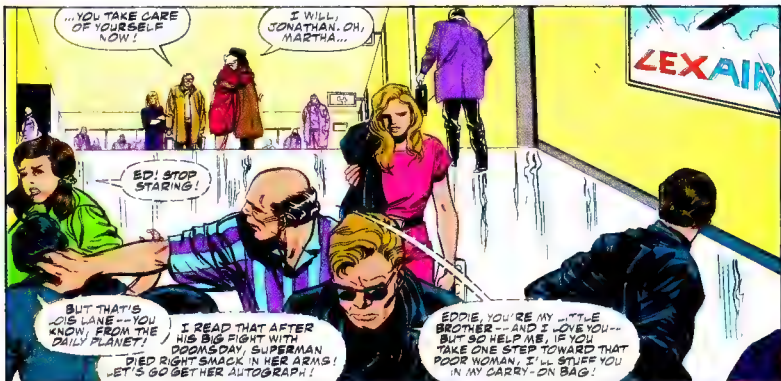


2. Lightly sketch the guide lines for the eyes, nose, and mouth.



3. Trash yours and just buy **LEGION '93**. He's there every month!





...YOU TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF NOW!

I WILL! JONATHAN. OH, MARTHA...

ED! STOP STARING!

BUT THAT'S LOIS LANE-- YOU KNOW, FROM THE DAILY PLANET!

I READ THAT AFTER HIS BIG FIGHT WITH DOOMS DAY, SUPERMAN DIED RIGHT SMACK IN HER ARMS! LET'S GO GETHER AUTOGRAPH!

EDDIE, YOU'RE MY LITTLE BROTHER-- AND I LOVE YOU-- BUT SO HELP ME, IF YOU TAKE ONE STEP TOWARD THAT POOR WOMAN, I'LL STUFF YOU IN MY CARRY-ON BAG!



I PROMISE THAT I'LL KEEP IN TOUCH! SAFE TRAVELING!

GIVE MY BEST TO PETER, LANA... LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU RESCHEDULE...



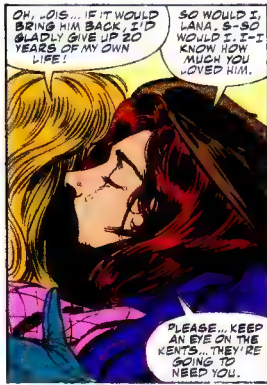
...YOUR WEDDING...

ALL THOSE YEARS THAT CLARK WAS AWAY FROM SMALLVILLE... AND I THOUGHT THAT I'D LOST HIM... THAT HE DIDN'T LOVE ME THE WAY I LOVED HIM--!



MY LOSS CAN'T BEGIN TO COMPARE TO HERS!

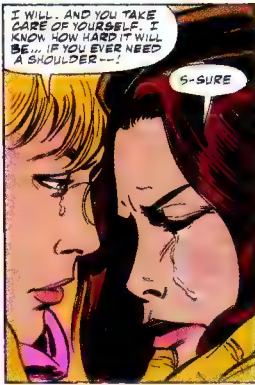
LOIS!



OH, LOIS... IF IT WOULD BRING HIM BACK, I'D GLADLY GIVE UP 20 YEARS OF MY OWN LIFE!

SO WOULD I, LANA. S-SO WOULD I. I-I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU LOVED HIM.

PLEASE... KEEP AN EYE ON THE KENTS... THEY'RE GOING TO NEED YOU.



I WILL. AND YOU TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF. I KNOW HOW HARD IT WILL BE... IF YOU EVER NEED A SHOULDER--!

S-SURE



I PROMISE... WHENEVER YOU NEED ME...



...I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU. ALWAYS.

End

REACTION

Animators of ACTION:

Re: ACTION COMICS #682

Three cheers for the creative team of Stern, Abell, and Austin for a more than superb self-contained issue of ACTION COMICS! Even though the continuity between all four titles has never been better, it's still refreshing to read one-issue stories. The only thing missing was having Superman wink at the end like in the old Swan stories of the '70s.

The amount of detail drawn by Dusty and Terry truly made the "Hi-Tech" atmosphere realistic. It has been really great to see Dusty improve his style with each project—this kid has a lot of talent. Of course, it's always great to see Terry back where he belongs. And as for Roger's writing (which it seems I'm always praising), not only is it excellent, but I enjoy the way he ties up past problems. I've stayed awake many a night pondering "Where did the Joker get that 40-megaton bomb in the now-classic Byrne issue of SUPERMAN #97?" Now I can rest a bit easier. Hey, waitaminute, how exactly did Satanus take on the persona of Collin Thornton? Ack, there goes more sleep!

Joe Kucharski III
Haddon Heights, NJ

Sweet dreams.

Dear Editor:

Well, let me preface this by admitting that I'm a newcomer to SUPERMAN comics. Having let go with that disclaimer, I can proceed with my impressions of ACTION COMICS #682. First, I was pleasantly surprised to find Superman somewhat knowledgeable about other cultures with his comment about Russian Matryoshka dolls. It's always nice to have brains with one's brawn.

And speaking of brawn, hooray for Hi-Tech! It's refreshing to see a good, strong woman character challenging the world of the Man of Steel. That's one of the reasons I haven't been particularly interested in reading SUPERMAN before now. Hi-Tech is a wonderful villain. She shows strength and determination in her battle with Superman, yet is distressed by the thought of his death. Who says buff chicks have to

be hard-hearted? It's just the kind of ambivalence I like in a character. And she doesn't whine or give up when she knows she's going to be blown to bits by a thermonuclear bomb. Superman isn't the only one with beauty and brains.

Hi-Tech's ambiguous nature really sparked my curiosity. So where is she from, anyway? I know, I know...I'll have to read future issues to find out, right? Is she part machine? Just what are her "superpowers," anyway? How did she get the name Hi-Tech? And where did she get that cool outfit? (I used to have a swimsuit kind of like it, but it wasn't nearly as interesting.) Will Superman tell Lois about his fascinating newfound nemesis? Sorry, Lois, but I think Superman and Hi-Tech make a much more thrilling combination. You know, love and hate, Yin and Yang, Cathy and Heathcliff, etc., etc. As you can see, I'm looking forward to finding out more about Hi-Tech!

D.A. Burd
Dreamtown, CA

Hope you can bear to wait a while, D.A....Some far bigger things are looming in Superman's life in the near future! Still, while you wait, you could get together with Delmo Walters (see his letter on the next page) for a Hi-Tech costume conference.

Dear Mike:

Congratulations! You've finally gotten my attention. I was a John Byrne fan of mammoth proportions when you and yours lured his talents to Metropolis. When he left, so did I. The honeymoon was over.

Every once in a while I'd pick up a good looking ACTION, SUPERMAN, or MAN OF STEEL. For some reason, I'd always be left with a feeling of emptiness.

You've worked hard to raise this book and the others to a respectable level. The new artists, the good writing, the overall air of continuity, contribute to make the SUPERMAN titles fun to pick up again. (Oh, by the way, I heard something about this Doomsday storyline upcoming and it had better be a bad rumor or I'll be very upset. Just when I start

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getting into these titles, you're going to kill them off? I don't think so!

Until the wedding (there will be a wedding, won't there? Mike? I WANT TO SEE A WEDDING!!!!!!)

J.M. Smith
Winsted, CT

Dear Mike and Jennifer:

"Gauntlet!" was a story straight out of the Old West, really; I could just hear Hi-Tech saying to Superman: "They say you're the quickest draw in the whole territory—well, I'm here to prove you wrong!"

Why do these people bother? Do the challengers ever win? What a terrible expense and waste of effort! Haven't they seen *Blazing Saddles*?

I'm glad Roger was able to turn the cliché on its head, though, by teaming the two combatants to fight a greater force and a more manic evil. Hi-Tech herself, though only developed briefly, became interesting both because of her sex and the obscurity of her motives: I hope we'll be learning more of her soon. Dusty Abell and Terry Austin's clear and expressive artwork forced me not to grieve over the lack of Jackson Guice this time 'round, but he'll be back here soon, though, I hope!

As a one-issue fight scenario whose storyline does not seem to expand significantly on the SUPERMAN mythos, I first deemed this issue reasonably superficial, but seen symbolically in the overall scheme of things about to approach Superman's life, it served as a clever hors d'oeuvre to the upcoming climactic battle with Doomsday, where in my sarcasm in the second paragraph will be severely challenged! I'm just wondering whether the imminent return of Waverider and the Linear Men might also be on the menu, suggesting a role they could play after SUPERMAN #75? After all, they have the power to alter potential future realities, don't they?

Just a thought.

Jim Jackson
Kent, England

Dear Ms. Frank:

It is with no little trepidation that I write to you and your fine publication. Having been, once upon a

time, a great fan and reader of the DC line, I have over the years strayed from this graphically anecdotal medium. I suspect that my interest began to wane at about the same time that the Inferior Five character "Dumb Bunny" faded from the scene. Go figure (oh sure, over the years, when I have wanted to be thrilled, amused or appalled by a comic book, I consult my six-volume set of "The Life of Richard Nixon Comics").

But I digress. I recently dipped into a stack of SUPERMAN titles including the powerful and socially (dare I say it? Yes!) *relevant* "Crisis at Hand" issues as well as the somewhat more standard storyline of "Gauntlet: Superman at the Hands of Hi-Tech." My return to the SUPERMAN fold has left me paraphrasing Thomas Wolfe: "You can go home again, but you might not recognize the furnishings."

There was certainly enough there to recognize the Superman of my youth: the same faux-1930s Martha Graham modern dance footwear, the same tonsorially hallucinatory hair coloring and the same collection of technologically advanced super-villains (who are spawned from the same real-world techno-culture that has trouble manufacturing a car stereo that lasts longer than two years? No, I don't think so...).

Yet all of a sudden here is the Man of Steel, an international pop-culture icon for most of the twentieth century, on the verge of being married and murdered (what's the deal with that: better dead than wed? Some sort of insurance scam involving Lois Lane? Is the Fashion Cops Death Squad after him for that tie he's wearing on page 2? The mind boggles.) And his behavior towards Hi-Tech! Certainly she is a refreshingly puissant and self-motivated individual, though she does seem to have a certain hostility towards both her nefarious male ally as well as her caped and capering male foe.

On the other hand, it certainly was nice to see that Moe Howard, the satiric image of an authority figure gone awry, has been reborn in the character of Thaddeus Killgrave.

Kevin W. Whitaker
Glendale, CA

Whew, Kevin! For your comics historical background and your use of the word "puissant" in a sentence, we just have to give you a Baldy! (Do you happen to know "Big Words" from The Newsboy Legion? Just asking...)

Dear Editor:

Issue #682 really seemed different in light of the knowledge of Superman's death. I mean, there were none of the usual guest stars and supporting cast present.

Supergirl has been a regular in ACTION COMICS, yet neither she nor Lois nor any of the others were present. Of course Stern gave us two good villains, and one of them a new creation and a female. There are not enough viable female villains in the DC Universe, but Hi-Tech is sure to become one of the few. I hope to see her return, not only to the SUPER-books but against other heroes as well. Killgrave was one of the good things Byrne did for SUPERMAN. Roger handled him with the kind of style that is necessary for any villain to be taken seriously against the Man of Steel! Killgrave gets a little closer each time he faces Superman, and this is one of the major things that make him a real threat!

"Gauntlet" was an excellent read and the guest art of Abell and Austin was a visual delight. It really deserves an "A" in my book. Dusty and Terry are more than welcome to guest in any SUPER-title anytime.

Kent Phenix
Indianapolis, ID

Dear SUPER-team:

ACTION COMICS is probably my favorite SUPER-title for the simple reason that it surprises me the most. The other titles seem to get a lot more early publicity about their stories, but often with ACTION I haven't seen the cover and have very little info on the story within. Having had no clues about Hi-Tech's nature I was pleasantly surprised to find that she wasn't just a robot to be trashed, but is a mysterious and worthy addition to SUPERMAN'S rogues gallery (though she's at the Maxima end, rather than the Brainiac end). It is refreshing to see a villain outthinking Superman, even if she and Killgrave did underestimate him.

It was great to see Killgrave again, who really is an evil little spud. To the best of my knowledge, Thaddeus Killgrave never seemed to be developed in previous stories—he was just suddenly there, trying to kill Superman. It was an interesting revelation that he supplied the Joker with a nuclear weapon, but will we ever get any further background on him such as: A) why he is an evil little spud; B) how he started as a criminal; and C) why on earth he chose to operate in Metropolis, given its fairly hefty super-hero protection rating.

Dusty Abell and Terry Austin illustrated this story beautifully, while Roger provided a tight script as usual. I did, however, miss the supporting cast this issue, and I'd like to make a request for more of Jose Delgado and Cat Grant.

Paul N. Hicks
Chatswood, Australia

Dear Mike and Jennifer:

Y'know, it's going to be really hard to enjoy these SUPERMAN stories knowing that come November, he's dead, but I'll give it the old college try. Besides, with art by Dusty Abell and Terry Austin, it's hard not to enjoy "Gauntlet." The first time I saw Dusty's work, in the SUPERMAN ARMAGEDDON 2001 Annual, it reminded me of Arthur Adams. Now his work has taken on a decidedly Byrne-like appearance. In either case, no complaint here. It's definitely easy on the eyes.

I like Hi-Tech. She definitely needs better looking armor (or at the very least armor that shows off her figure. Hey, I'm a man. Sue me). Shame that she won't be meeting Superman again. But, then again, she can always go up against other DC heroes, or she can tangle with Supergirl/Matrix who is slated to take Superman's place as protector of Metropolis once Superman leaves this mortal coil.

Delmo (The Saint) Walters, Jr.
Bronx, NY

Good to know that you're holding up so well, Delmo. As you can see, Hi-Tech caught the imagination of a number of readers. Maybe next time she'll be wearing a metal bikini. There's always hope...

—Jennifer Frank
in a Full Metal Jacket

NEXT WEEK: Jonathan Kent comes face to face with death as his grief for Clark pushes him over the edge. **MAN OF STEEL #21**, written by Louise Simonson, pencilled by Jon Bogdanove and inked by Dennis Janke.

IN TWO WEEKS: Never in her life has Martha Kent been so alone. Her son is dead, and on their isolated farm, miles from friends and help, her husband is dying. **SUPERMAN #77** is written and pencilled by Dan Jurgens and inked by Brett Breeding.

IN THREE WEEKS: There is no information on **ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #500** at this time.

IN ONE MONTH: There is no information on **ACTION COMICS #687** at this time.

This issue's cover attempts to raise the musical question "Who is Buried in Superman's Tomb?"...lucky for us comics with soundtracks haven't been invented yet, 'cause Jackson Guice, who pencilled and inked this one, and Denis Rodier, who colored it, really can't sing.

PHAR OUT.



Get fired up for the fastest phaser fight in the universe. You're flying the Phalanx A-144. Blasting beastly Bio-Weapons. And no matter how big the buggers get, they never seem to slow down. We're talking certain doom - in 3D! So buckle up, bub. It's phar out. **KEMCO**

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MOOKIE PRESENTS

BAT MAN

AND

THE CAPTIVE COMICS

COMMISSIONER GORDON HAS BEEN CAPTURED BY THE 3 SVENGAU BROTHERS, UNDERWORLD FIGURES. WITHOUT ITS COMMISSIONER, GOTHAM CITY IS IN TOTAL CHAOS.

DAMMIT! WHY'D THEY HAVE TO PULL THIS ON THE DAY THE NEW COMICS ARE RELEASED?

WE SHOULD FINISH THIS QUICK! THE NEW O-DAYS ARE ONLINE!

CHECK THIS OUT, GUYS... NOT ONLY DID I TORRENT THE DC AND MARVEL CHRONOLOGIES, I DIDN'T EVEN SHARE THEM! I THINK MY RATIO IS LIKE 0.018 ON DEMONOID. AND I POST REQUESTS AT I AM ON RELEASE DAY.

NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL EVIL!

LET'S GET BATMAN AND PICK UP THE RANSOM.

YA KNOW, BATMAN, IT WAS KINDA STUPID OF YOU TO GET IN THE CAR WITH US. BUT SINCE YOU'RE HERE, REMEMBER: ASS, GAS OR GRASS. NO ONE RIDES FOR FREE!

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS GONNA DO WITH ALL OF THAT MONEY? BUY THE ABSOLUTE SANDMAN?

WHY BUY COMICS WHEN WE CAN SPEND OUR MONEY ON HOSTESS FRUIT PIES??

APPLE FOR ME!

THE REAL FRUIT FILLING IS WORTH MORE THAN AWESOME ART AND QUALITY STORIES.

THE TENDER CRUST HELPS ME BELIEVE THAT TOO!

BUT THE COMIC BOOK STORE IS FULLA NERDS ON WEDNESDAYS...

CHECK THE HUBS AND TORRENT SITES ON WEDNESDAYS AND GO TO THE STORE ON THURSDAYS...

SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN TO ME, BATMAN!

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